

The Depression lingered. Life was, well, life. But there was even so somebody who made a great difference and that was Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees. I admired him as no other man. Read of him each day, or so it seemed, in the Daily News. And yet I had never seen him play. One summer day my mother somehow found the needful sixty cents. Fifty cents for a ticket at the Stadium, a nickel for the subway up and back. Off I went in high expectation. But Gehrig, disease I must assume was now in progress, got no hit. A young rookie I had scarce noticed hit a home run. Joe DiMaggio. It began to drizzle, but they kept the game going just long enough so there would be no raincheck. I went home lifeless and lay on my bed desolate.

Clearly I was in pain, if that is the word. The next day my mother somehow came up with yet another sixty cents. Up I went. And the exact same sequence occurred.

I went home. But not lifeless. To the contrary, animated.

For I hated Joe DiMaggio. For life.

I knew this to be a sin, but it did not matter. Gehrig retired, then died. My animus only grew more animated.

Thirty years and some went by. I was now the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations. One evening I was having dinner at an Italian restaurant in midtown. As our company was about finished, who walked in but DiMaggio himself, accompanied by a friend. They took a table against the wall opposite. I watched. He looked over, smiled and gave a sort of wave. Emboldened, as we were leaving, I went over to shake hands. He rose wonderfully to the occasion.

I went out on 54th Street as I recall. And of a sudden was struck as if by some Old Testament lightening. "My God," I thought, "he has forgiven me!" He must have known about me all those years, but he returned hate with love. My soul had been in danger and he had rescued me.

Still years later, just a little while ago the Yankees won another pennant. Mayor Guiliani arranged a parade from the Battery to City Hall. Joe was in the lead car; I was to follow. As we waited to get started, I went up to him, introduced myself and told of having watched him at the Stadium these many years ago. "But I have to tell you," I added, "Lou Gehrig was my hero."

"He was my hero, too," said Joe.●

**RECOGNIZING BERNICE SHIVLEY,
FIRST BOOK COORDINATOR,
PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASH-
INGTON**

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Bernice Shivley in my home state of Washington for her efforts to promote literacy in her com-

munity. As I have traveled around Washington state, I hear again and again about the great strides "First Book" has made in improving children's literacy and in particular, I hear remarkable praise for Bernice Shivley, the First Book Coordinator in Pend Oreille County.

First Book is a national non-profit organization with a single mission: To give disadvantaged children the opportunity to read and own their first new book. At the national level, First Book has developed a sustained network of strategic partnerships with groups and companies like the American Library Association and Barnes & Noble, Inc. The key to First Book's success, however, is the inspiration and commitment of local communities.

In each locality, First Book establishes an advisory board comprised of volunteer leaders including librarians, teachers, retailers, and public officials. These boards work with existing local literacy programs to increase the availability of tutors, book grants, and to promote special events—all in the name of improved literacy. Most importantly, perhaps, First Book reaches out to the children who are most difficult to reach: the children in soap kitchens and in homeless shelters, in church basements and in youth centers.

In Pend Oreille County, which is in the northeast corner of Washington state, Bernice Shivley has made the success of First Book her passion. The regional coordinator for First Book tells me that "Bernice is a model for what First Book is all about." She has graciously volunteered her time and has spent countless hours creating an advisory board, securing donations from area business, and identifying local literacy programs to support. For these reasons, I am awarding Bernice the second of my weekly "Innovation in Education Awards."

It is the actions of people like Bernice around the country that should remind us here in Washington, DC that those closest to our children are best equipped to make important decisions regarding their education. I commend Bernice for her outstanding work on behalf of the children and citizens of Pend Oreille County.●

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize March 8th as the annual celebration of International Women's Day in the State of New Jersey.

International Women's Day began in 1911, when over one million people from around the world gathered to honor women in the workplace and enhance women's rights universally. The many citizens from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the United States attended rallies in their home coun-

tries and called for women to have the right to vote, the right to hold public office, for vocational training and to end discrimination against women in the workplace.

Mr. President, women's rights have come a long way since then. But we still have farther to go.

Mr. President, the purpose now of International Women's Day is to promote many causes important to women and girls, such as education, leadership development and ongoing human rights struggles. Supporters of this day would like to see economic justice for women, freedom from glass ceilings, violent workplace environments and sexual harassment, and the elimination of child labor in sweatshops.

In addition, Mr. President, a concurrent celebration of International Women's Day has blossomed in New Jersey. New Jersey, in fact, is the only state where International Women's Day is celebrated state-wide in classrooms and community centers everywhere.

In 1992, New Jersey's celebration was founded in Metuchen with the help of organizations like Women Helping Women, Citizens for Quality Education and the Metuchen Public Schools. Since then, the New Jersey state legislature, the White House and the United Nations have all recognized this celebration as important in the evolution of women's rights. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of the U.S.A., one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the world, has also become a vital sponsor of International Women's Day.

Mr. President, this year's celebration is entitled, "Women Working for Health: Body, Mind, Spirit," focusing on women in the workplace. In classrooms across New Jersey, women from all walks of life, including veterinarians, pilots, judges, community leaders, and medical researchers, have been invited to discuss their personal and professional experiences with students at levels ranging from kindergarten to adult education programs. These priceless exchanges will provide young girls and women with mentors, role models and friends.

Mr. President, I am happy to join in the celebration of International Women's Day in New Jersey, and all that it does to foster the promotion of equal rights for women. I hope my colleagues will do the same.●

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL AWARDED CREDIT FOR EARLY ACTION

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, climate change poses potential real threats to Vermont, the Nation, and the World. While we cannot yet predict the exact timing, magnitude, or nature of these threats, we must not let our uncertainty lead to inaction.

Preventing climate change is a daunting challenge. It will not be